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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

March 5, 2020

Paul Kjellander, President
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

RE: Request for a Public Hearing on Avista's 2020 Electric Integrated Resource Plan
Case No. ~~AVU-E-20-01~~ *AVU-E-19-01*

Dear President Kjellander and Commissioners of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission:

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission ("IPUC") recently opened a case to consider the 2020 Electric Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") for Avista Corporation, doing business as Avista Utilities ("Avista"). As you know, Avista provides electricity to our city and to the vast majority of communities in North Idaho. Among other things, Avista's 2020 IRP will be the strategy for determining how North Idaho communities will continue to receive reliable, affordable power and the resources Avista will use to generate this power. The resources with which Avista generates power have always had unique significance for the Sandpoint community because of our close proximity to the Clark Fork and Pend Oreille River Systems – a source of vast hydroelectric power we have benefited from for years. But, energy generation facilities besides hydroelectric impact our community too. We understand that IRP's are working documents, and that the 2020 IRP will not mandate a particular conclusion or result. But, as a community in the midst of several master planning processes, including our Comprehensive Plan, we understand the importance of charting a course and creating a vision.

The vision provided in Avista's IRP's will always have important implications for our City and the Avista customers in our community, but the 2020 IRP will be particularly important given the rapidly changing electric utility landscape. That is why the Sandpoint City Council is requesting the IPUC facilitate a public hearing in Sandpoint and provide our community an in-person forum to participate in the public review of Avista's IRP. Our City and many local Avista customers here would appreciate the opportunity to directly communicate our support of smart energy resource investments today that give us the benefit of the most reliable, affordable, and clean resources in the future. Moreover, we want to ensure the IPUC understands the public interest in electric utility matters, so that it too will support and approve Avista's future resource decisions that seek out reliable, affordable, and clean energy resources.

Letter from City of Sandpoint

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We understand that the City of Sandpoint is just about as far as the IPUC would ever need to travel in Idaho and that holding a hearing in Sandpoint would be no small sum of time and resources for the Commission, its staff, and the People of Idaho. And we have appreciated the IPUC's demonstrated commitment to making itself available to our sister communities in North Idaho, as well as via telephonic public hearings. Nevertheless, there are some issues that are so vital to a community's future that it merits the time, attention, and meaningfulness that comes from meeting folks where they are. We hope you will agree that Avista's 2020 Electric IRP is one of these issues.

Thank you for time and consideration. We hope to see you soon.

Very Respectfully,



Shelby Rognstad
Mayor
City of Sandpoint

c: Linda Gervais, Sr. Manager, Regulatory Policy, Avista
David J. Meyer, Vice President and Chief Counsel for Regulatory and Governmental Affairs, Avista